

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Thus most flooded lead acid batteries include polyethylene separators. The term “polyethylene separator” is something of a misnomer because these microporous separators require large amounts of precipitated silica to be sufficiently acid wettable. The volume fraction of precipitated silica and its distribution in the separator generally ~~controls~~ control its electrical properties, while the volume fraction and orientation of polyethylene in the separator generally ~~controls~~ control its mechanical properties.

Replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] Because the separator web is microporous, a portion of the antioxidant coating solution wicks into the interior of the web such that antioxidant is present on the web surface and in the interior of the separator web. For example, more antioxidant may be present on the surface of the web and less antioxidant may be present in the interior of the web. The antioxidant coating solution is preferably of a concentration that provides sufficient wicking into the separator web during application and that provides the desired antioxidation protection for the separator web after drying. For example, when the antioxidant is Irganox 1010 and the extraction solvent is trichlorethylene, ~~a 5-50% (w/v) a~~ 5-50% (w/v) solution of Irganox 1010 in trichlorethylene is preferred.